

*14,03*  
*Topography*  
**Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

TO : Assistant Director for Operations  
FROM : Acting Chief, Interdepartmental  
Coordinating and Planning Staff  
SUBJECT: Interservice Topographical Operation

DATE: 10 October 1946

Reference your DF 4 October 1946 re "Interservice Topographical Operation" - a project is now under way in CIG to produce a hand book for Russia similar to that which you describe.

Similar projects for other areas are under study and outlines for development are being considered.

CIG organization and operational development contemplate that the preparation of this type of intelligence will be a function of the Office of Research and Evaluation. A Geographic Division is being established in the Functional Branch of that office. Collection of material will be supervised by the Office of Collection and Dissemination, which will coordinate with ORE for requirements both as to content and dissemination. The mechanics of reproduction are charged to the Executive for P&A under ORE guidance. The CIG repository for intelligence material is the Reference Branch of ORE.

The question of supervision of the activities of the Joint Intelligence Studies Publications Board, which is an activity somewhat similar to the British ISTD is currently under consideration. Should it eventually come under CIG direction it is intended the ORE supervise its activities.

DONALD EDGAR

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*Geogr. Names*

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## DISPOSITION FORM

59-A.  
14.03  
Topography

FROM	TO	DATE		FROM	TO	DATE	
			DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE				CHIEF, CENTRAL REPORTS STAFF
			DEPUTY DIRECTOR, C.I.G.				W. Europe-Africa Branch
			ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR				E. Europe-USSR Branch
			SECRETARY, N.I.A.				Middle East-India Branch
X		4/20	Asst. Director for Operations				Far East-Pacific Branch
			CHIEF OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES				Western Hemisphere Branch
X		4/20	Chief, ICAPS				
			CHIEF, CENTRAL PLANNING STAFF				ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
			Policy & Review Branch				Personnel Branch
			Information Branch				Budget & Fiscal Branch
			Intelligence Branch				Administrative Services Branch
			Security Branch				Central Records
			Support Branch				Security Branch

## REFERENCES:

## ENCLOSURES:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/>	DIRECT REPLY
<input type="checkbox"/>	RECOMMENDATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COMMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	FILE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOTE
<input type="checkbox"/>	RETURN	<input type="checkbox"/>	MAIL
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREPARATION OF REPLY		

## REMARKS:

SUBJECT: Interservice Topographical Operation

1. In England, one of the more important functions of the centralized intelligence agency is the production of geographic data for the use of the several service ministries. An example of the finished product would be a basic handbook on Russia similar to the "Basic Handbook on Germany" issued in the early spring of 1944.

2. At present in the United States, geographic data is collected and processed by several agencies to include the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Geological Survey, the Hydrographic Office, the War Department, and the Department of Agriculture.

3. In order to point available resources at any such target as Russia, there logically should be a coordinating agency which would attempt to:

(Continue "Remarks" on back, if necessary)

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- a. Ensure an economical operation.
- b. Secure proper coverage of the target.
- c. Furnish required supplementary services not available from existing service agencies.
- d. Put the finished product in the best form and make proper distribution.

4. In the United Kingdom, the above responsibilities reside in the organization at Oxford known as the "Inter Service Topographical Directorate," or more commonly, the "I.S.T.D.." I have visited their plant on several occasions. The actual operations consist largely of:

- a. Determination of users requirements.
- b. Breaking down and circulating resultant basic requirements to producers.
- c. Filing and collation of material sent in as a result of b.
- d. Determination of final make-up and content of end product by suitable conference.
- e. Drafting and reproduction of plates.
- f. Editing.
- g. Printing and binding.
- h. Distribution.

This is clearly a "factory" type operation.

5. It is recommended that proper representation be made to the NIA for the assignment of this function to CIG. It is further recommended that, if so assigned, it be placed in the Operations Branch of CIG for supervision and coordination.

  
EDWIN L. SIBERT  
Brigadier General, USA  
Assistant Director for Operations

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